

REMARKS

Claims 1-29 are now pending in the application. Claims 1, 10, 14-18, 22, and 25-28 are amended. Claim 29 is added. Support for the amendments and additions can be found in the originally filed specification at Figure 1, Figure 3, Figure 4, and at paragraphs [0026]-[0029], [0031], [0033], and [0035]. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection(s) in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 10 is amended to clarify that the claimed subject is different from the interpretation asserted by the Examiner. Support for the amendments to claim 10 can be found in the originally filed specification at paragraph [0035].

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Claims 14-18 and 25-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants have amended claims 14-18 and 25-28 in accordance with the Examiner's clear and definite interpretations of the claimed subject matter.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claim 14-18 and 25-28 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Taylor (“SSML: A Speech Synthesis Markup language” Speech Communication, 1996) in view of Kobal (U.S. Pat. No. 7,099,828). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner relies on Taylor to teach a text-to-speech engine that converts text-input to labeled text having tags indicating pronunciation of the text-input, and a word processor that allows users to enter text and tags by a keyboard. However, Taylor does not teach, suggest, or motivate communicating variations in one or more types of speech features associated with segments of a processed representation of text-input by varying visual display properties of the segments.

The Examiner relies on Kobal to teach a GUI that has “graphical indicators” in the form of labeled command buttons corresponding to phonemes used to indicate pronunciation of text. However, Taylor and Kobal do not teach, suggest, or motivate communicating variations in one or more types of speech features associated with segments of a processed representation of text-input by varying visual display properties of the segments.

As described at paragraphs [0026]-[0029], [0031], and [0033] of the originally filed specification, Applicants’ claimed invention is directed toward intuitive text to speech customization that employing a visual tuning approach communicating variations in one or more types of speech features associated with segments of a processed representation of text-input by varying visual display properties of the segments. For example, independent claim 1, especially as amended, recites, “communicating variations in one or more types of speech features associated with

segments of said representation by varying visual display properties of the segments.” Independent claims 18 and 22, especially as amended, recite similar subject matter. Therefore, Taylor and Kobal do not teach, suggest, or motivate all of the limitations of the independent claims. These differences are significant.

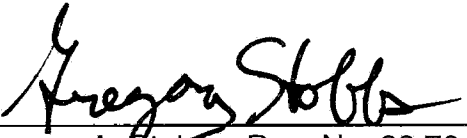
Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejections of independent claims 1, 18, and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), along with rejection on these grounds of all claims dependent therefrom. Applicants respectfully note that new claim 29 depends from claim 1 and should be allowed for the same reasons.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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